

CHAPTER EIGHT
Faith of Our Fathers

A living faith—a faith that literally moved mountains of colonizing problems, mountains of tragedy, sorrow and hardship and yet brought with it mountains of joy—characterized the lives of pioneer settlers in Heber City and Wasatch County.

Theirs was a faith that had spurred them to move from other areas into this new frontier land where they had to wrestle with the soil and the elements for new homes, new farms and a new kind of life. It was a faith, also, that moved them to great spiritual works. They found no established meeting houses, well organized and conveniently operating, when they came. They had to build their own buildings, provide their own leadership and work hard to bring righteousness into their area. This they did, and did it with a determined faith that would not allow them to sacrifice the precious religious heritage that had brought them to this land and that sustained them each day of their lives.

The first group that was organized to come to the valley had an appointed religious leader, Elder William Meeks. All the settlers were Latter-day Saints, and they looked to their spiritual leaders for temporal guidance also. ① ②

When Elder Meeks left the valley, William Madison Wall became the area's presiding elder. He served until President Brigham Young ordained Joseph S. Murdock to be bishop of a new ward that was created in Heber City in 1861.

Abram Hatch succeeded Bishop Murdock in 1867 and he served until 1877 when he was called as the first president of the new Wasatch Stake. One of his first acts as stake president was to arrange a special conference at which the Heber Ward was divided into the Heber East and the Heber West Wards.

Main Street was declared the dividing line, and all those east of the street were naturally in the East Ward and those west of Main were in the West Ward.

Even though there were now two wards in Heber City, they continued for a time to hold a joint Sunday School. Sunday School services had been held since 1862 under the direction of Thomas H. Giles, the first Heber Ward superintendent. Others who served in that capacity were John Galligher, Samuel Wing, Henry Clegg, Frederick Giles and William Lindsay.

The first meetings had been held in the log church and school building erected in 1860. A new stone building housed the Sunday Schools in

1st Presiding Elder
Wm Meeks

Dwayne Meeks
654-1444

R. RAYMOND GREEN, M. D.

PHYSICIAN & SURGEON

SPECIALTY SURGERY

45 SOUTH MAIN STREET

HEBER CITY, UTAH 84032

PHONE 654-1822

May 4, 1979

Dear _____:

In the past we have been very lenient regarding the payment of past due accounts. For the past year or two we have made direct appeal to our patients whose accounts were long past due .

We find it necessary at this time to turn the remainder of the past due accounts over to the First Security Bank Collection Department.

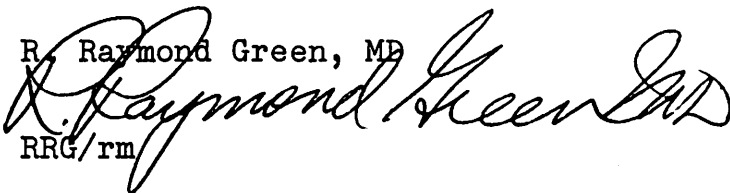
Our records show that your account is past due in the amount of _____. Further, we show that no payment has been made on the account since _____.

In order to avoid damaging your credit rating you may make arrangements with our office in the next 15 days to pay this bill.

Sincerely yours,

R. Raymond Green, MD

RRG/rm



WILLIAM AND MARY
ELIZABETH RHODES MEEKS

William Meeks, son of Abbe and Ann
West Meeks.

in Charleston, South

h Rhodes,

1877, St. George,

se. 664

Early Presiding
Elders in
Provo River Valley

1. Young Meeks
exploring Party
Apr-May 1854

2. Young Meekison Well

Then the only
Presiding Bishop
Joseph Stacy Munkelt

ADAM AND MARY



Mary Elizabeth Rhodes, daughter of
George Henry Rhodes and Elizabeth Nis-
senger, born January 23, 1818, in Boone,
Warren County, Indiana. Died March
29, 1900 at Bicknell, Utah.

William came to Utah in 1852 in Capt.
Nissenger's Company with his parents. Af-
ter arriving in Utah the Meeks family moved
to Nephi, Utah. Three years later they
were called to go to Fort Supply in Wy-
oming where they stayed during the time
Johnston's army came through.

In 1858 or 1859 William Meeks came
into Provo Valley with Joseph Parker Wil-
liam Cummings, William Wall and Andrew
Ross. They cut some hay and fed their
livestock on what they called Meek's Bot-
tom about two miles southwest of the
present Heber City.

During the winter of 1859 and 1860 Wil-
liam Meeks and others built a sawmill in
Center Creek Canyon, which was the pioneer
sawmill in the valley. A grand-daughter,
Mary Ann Meeks Wirtlin says her grand-
father, William Meeks suggested that the
town be called Heber City, after the given
name of Heber C. Kimball.

William Meeks was the first Presiding
Elder in the valley. In 1860 he helped to
build a log cabin, 16 feet by 40 feet which
was used for the Pioneer Day celebration
that year.

The Meeks family moved to Provo from
Heber City and Midway, and from there to
St. George where William was killed in a
horse accident.

Children of William and Mary were:

Harvey, married Catherine Dowdle

Henry, married Ann Meekham

Elizabeth, married Jared Bullock

Mary Ann, married William Cummings

William, married Sarah Gardner

Joseph, married Vilate Burgess

Mary Jane, married James Pierce
Mary Melissa, married Willard Snow
Mary Louisa, married James Gardner.

William Meeks acted
as Presiding Elder and
appointed by Brigham
Young in 1858. He
acted as Presiding
Elder thru Spring
of 1860.

Ref. Album p 12

Add
FCS &
List of
Men in
Meeks

WILLIAM AND MARY ELIZABETH RHODES MEEKS

William Meeks, son of Athe and Ann
West Meeks.
Born January 9, 1815, in Charleston, South
Carolina.
Married Mary Elizabeth Rhodes.
Died November 30, 1877, St. George,
Utah, killed riding a horse.

William Meeks was born in Charleston, South Carolina, January 9, 1815. He was the son of Athe and Ann West Meeks. He was married to Mary Elizabeth Rhodes on November 30, 1877, in St. George, Utah. He was killed while riding a horse.

MIDWAY BIOGRAPHIES



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